

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Baptists seizing Afghan opportunities

KABUL, Afghanistan (BP) — Pakistani police fired shots to control thousands of Afghan refugees massing Oct. 21, at the country's border with Afghanistan, while aid workers project that as many as 1.7 million refugees from Afghanistan and surrounding countries are flooding toward Pakistan, fleeing the war and the worst drought in 30 years.

No aid agencies are able to work inside Afghanistan. All surrounding countries have closed their borders, setting the stage for a humanitarian disaster of horrifying proportions, aid workers say.

Heightening the urgency for Southern Baptist workers, of course, is the fact that virtually none of the refugees whose lives are in danger has heard the Good News of forgiveness and salvation in Jesus Christ.

As conditions in the region change, however, Southern Baptists will have tremendous opportunities to share the Good News of God's love and minister to people in crisis.

DIRE STRAITS

Afghanistan is a place where in a "good" year only one in four children dies before the age of five and the average person

survives only 44 years.

Factor in a four-year famine and 20 years of political turmoil, and you have a country in such terrible condition that people are forced to feed on stubby grass and locusts.

Lakes have evaporated, leaving cracked valleys of mud. Emaciated animals, the few to escape slaughter, stumble about in search of brittle sticks of grass.

Before the events of Sept. 11 sent Afghanistan into an even deeper downward spiral, Afghans already were suffering in dire economic and political conditions.

"Afghanistan has two wheat harvests," explained a worker who is focused on an unreached people group in Afghanistan. "[From] the first harvest they were able to get a little bit because of the snowfall in the winter. The second wheat harvest for this year [yielded] next to nothing."

The World Food Program estimates that as many as six million Afghans rely on food aid for survival.



RUN FOR THE BORDER — This Muslim man, among 26 million people in Afghanistan, has virtually no access to the Gospel as he and many of his kin seek to flee their country. Decades of war and a devastating drought have brought poverty, desolation, and despair to this terrorist haven and former outpost of the British Empire. (BP photo)

United States. The factions then spent the next 10 years fighting each other for control of the maimed country. By the late 1990s the Taliban emerged as the strongest army.

After gaining control of more than 95% of the country, the Taliban set out to purge Afghanistan of its Western trappings and to establish their version of an ideal Islamic state.

Women were stripped of their freedoms. Crimes against Islam were declared punishable by death, and "holy war" was waged against enemies of Allah.

The famine and violence have forced millions of Afghans to flee to Pakistan and Iran for refuge. Millions more have been displaced from their homes and trapped within Afghanistan's borders.

Whole families of refugees live in tents no more than 3.5 feet square. They sleep on the ground with no blankets or protection from the brutal winters.

Last winter, desperate parents dug holes in the ground, placed their children in the holes, and laid on top of them to give their children a slight respite from frigid temperatures. Usually there is no running water or sewage system. "As far as humanitarian aid

work, you name it, you could do it," said the Christian worker. "It just shows the immense need that is there."

MILLIONS HAVE NEVER HEARD

As bleak as physical conditions seem, the spiritual situation of the Afghan people is even worse.

While the United Nations rushes to distribute tons of food and warm clothing to Afghanistan's destitute, the country is closed to missions agencies that could fill the spiritual void in people's hearts.

According to Operation World, Afghanistan's 26.7 million people are divided among 70 people groups. The vast majority practice Islam and will die without ever hearing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Of the 10 largest people groups in Afghanistan, only four have Scriptures portions available in their language.

One example are the Taimanis, one of the largest people groups in Afghanistan and also one of the most unreached.

With no access to the Bible, the Jesus film, or Christian broadcasts in their language, at least 96% of the people have not heard the Gospel.

There are no known Christians among them and no mission agencies working with their 480,100 people.



20 YEARS OF WAR

Political turmoil also has gripped Afghanistan for two decades. First came the Soviet invasion, which Afghan factions eventually defeated with help from the

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Directions

4

Names in the News

5

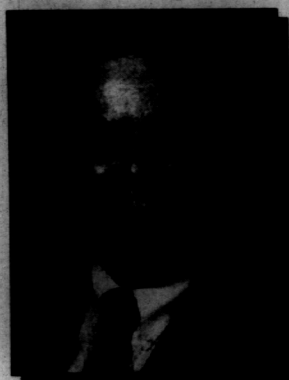
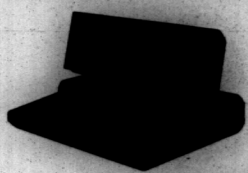
Baptist College News

6

Sunday School lessons

7

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The same old story

Politics can be brutal. Most of us know that, and despite all the modern safeguards that have been put into place, it is still occasionally possible for a good person to somehow get through the system and serve with honor.

One such person is U.S. District Judge Charles Pickering of Laurel, a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Over the years, he has also been a member of just about every committee Mississippi Baptists have to offer, and he has served as parliamentarian at the convention's annual meeting.

When Mississippi Baptists have called on him, he has answered without reservation.

Pickering has also executed his duties as a federal judge with distinction. Nary a whiff of scandal or controversy has ever been alleged during his tenure on the bench.

While undoubtedly as human as the rest of us and therefore prone to occasional failure, Charles Pickering is nevertheless known in his hometown and his home church as a Christian man of character who holds firm to his convictions.

In modern American politics, that can get a fellow in deep trouble.

Pickering was nominated by President Bush in May to fill a vacancy on the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, which in federal judicial circles could certainly be considered a merit-based promotion for a job well done.

It also doesn't hurt that Pickering is a member of the same political party as the President, but he could not possibly have earned the appeals court nomination without a respectable record as a federal district judge for the past 11 years. Presidents don't like being shot down by sending poor nominees to Capitol Hill for confirmation.

No less than the American Bar Association ranked him "well qualified" as the nominee for the appeals court post. A rational person could take that to mean the liberal-leaning lawyers group could find no compelling reason to prevent Pickering from serving on the appeals court.

Not so with the Congressional Black Caucus, which recently notified U.S. Senate Judicial Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy that it "adamantly opposes the nomination." Why? That's where standing firm on one's convictions can cause trouble.

According to the letter sent to Leahy by the Congressional Black Caucus — which was reportedly signed by Congressman Bennie Thompson, the only African-American in Mississippi's congressional delegation — Pickering "has a quarter-century record of hostility to women's rights, including a woman's right to choose."

For those of us who live in the real world outside the Beltway, a "woman's right to choose" is universally known by its actual name — abortion on demand.

Pickering also opposed the Equal Rights Amendment and was a member of the committee that wrote a Republican convention platform that openly stated the party's revulsion for the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* to legalize abortion on demand, the caucus said.

Those are his two great sins, if the caucus is to be believed, that should disqualify him from serving as an appeals court judge.

Apparently most Americans were on the same side as Pickering when it came to the Equal Rights Amendment, since backers could never get enough state legislatures to sign on to that ill-conceived bit of legislative fatuousness. Nevermind the facts. Elitists always seem to have a problem accepting the will of the people.

As for a "woman's right to choose," Pickering apparently believes as many other Americans do that to kill a defenseless, developing human being out of incon-



venience or embarrassment is not choice but infanticide.

Don't be fooled. This fight isn't about Charles Pickering. It could just as easily be about you or me or anyone else who publicly conducts himself or herself in a Christian manner and stands up for their Bible-based beliefs.

It's about ideas and values, and the worldly elitists in Washington, D.C., would just as soon we pesky Christians didn't disrupt their agenda and the power that goes along with it. As a matter of fact, they'll do anything to hold on to that power, including the personal destruction of good people they see as a threat to their standing and prestige.

Now, where have we heard that story before?

GUEST OPINION:



Is your church dying?

By Archie Herrin, missions director
Tri-County Baptist Missions
Columbia

standing ministers in our churches, and some are blaming themselves for the lack of growth.

Some ministers are at rope's end. They need our prayers and encouragement.

When your church's ministry team (pastor and church staff) suggests changes to help reach the community for Christ, don't shoot it down without hearing the heart of the team. If we keep doing the same old thing the same old way, we will get the same old results.

Some of our churches are dying, and it grieves my heart and the hearts of ministers in those churches. Allow me to

suggest some solutions:

- Don't let a day go by without praying for your ministry team. I pray for them each morning and night, not always by name unless I know of a special need in their lives.

- Take a minute right now to call your pastor or church staffer and offer words of encouragement. Better yet, send them a note.

- When you hear someone roasting your pastor, put a stop to it. They are God's anointed. Psalm 105:15 states, *touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.* You may never lay a hand on your pastor or church staff, but you can crucify them with your tongue.

- Pastors and church staffers, do your best to minister to your people. Preach the Word! Share your God-called ministry with the church!

- Church members, begin to hold each other accountable for faithfulness to God and the church.

Together, let's join hands and hearts to build God's kingdom. Let's put aside petty differences for a much greater cause — the cause of Christ. The lost world is waiting.

God is waiting for his church to go forth triumphantly. The victory has been won.

Your church may never be the largest, but it can be the most loving. A loving church draws people to it.

Let's be about the King's business and not worry about who will get the credit.

Pastor and church staffers, keep loving your people — the good, the bad, the ugly.

Church members, keep loving your pastor and church staffers — the good, the bad, the ugly.

Not that we have any ugly people or pastors.

Vols from 10 states attend MissionsFEST

PHILADELPHIA (BP) — When many Americans are canceling travel plans because of the uncertainties brought by the events of Sept. 11, Southern Baptist women and men from 10 states kept their commitment to travel to Philadelphia for the first-ever MissionsFEST in the northeast.

"You have given a great testimony by merely showing up," Wanda S. Lee, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), told the volunteers Oct. 5. "God's presence and peace are with us when we know that we are following his will for us."

The Philadelphia MissionsFEST events, sponsored by WMU, were held Oct. 4-6

and 7-13. The two events were in addition to two MissionsFEST and a FamilyFEST held in Stone Mountain, Ga., and Little Rock, Ark., in April and June, respectively.

The nearly 100 volunteers who made their way to the city of brotherly love were involved in a variety of ministry projects, such as sorting food at a food bank, sorting clothes at a inner-city mission, working with children in a multihousing community, and helping build a Habitat for Humanity house.



PHILADELPHIA AREA OUTREACH — Wanda S. Lee (right) Woman's Missionary Union executive director, visits with Lee Ann Sheridan (left) and Dessie Dixon during MissionsFEST in Philadelphia. Sheridan is the pastor's wife at Schuylkill Valley Church in Spring City, Pa., where Dixon's team from Fort Washington, Md., and other teams tackled yard work, painting, repairs, and door-to-door visitation. (Photo by Teresa Dickens)

The teams also helped local churches. In Spring City, Pa., several teams helped Schuylkill Valley Church, doing light construction and yard maintenance at its parsonage and door-to-door visitation in the neighborhood. One young mother made a profession of faith Oct. 11 during a visit with Bobbie Van Atta from Birmingham, Ala., and Dorothy Barham from Lillington, N.C.

Volunteers described their experiences on the ministry sites as educational and encouraging.

Memunatu Kollie from Rochester, N.Y., worked in a food bank processing food items, thinking as she worked how the "food could reach someone for Christ."

Shirley Cambridge from Fort Washington, Md., said she discovered new skills through her assignment to work on a Habitat for Humanity house.

In addition to being "blessed" by the experience, Cambridge said she was confident she could "go home and build steps for my house."

For about 80% of the volunteers who attended the Oct. 4-6 event, the weekend was their first experience on a missions trip.

Jan Lowe from Siler City, N.C., lead the first-ever adult team from her church, Moon's Chapel Church.

Lowe expressed appreciation to WMU for the MissionsFEST experience, adding, "When we go back and tell the story of this trip, we'll have many more teams in the future."

Involving Southern Baptist women and men in hands-on missions is the primary reason

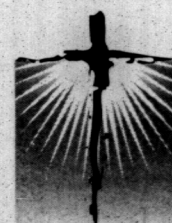
for MissionsFEST, Lee told the group Oct. 5. "Our goal in establishing these events was to give you a hands-on missions experience and help you see that you can go back home and duplicate the experience in your community."

Helping the volunteers understand what it is like to be a Southern Baptist beyond the Bible belt was a major goal for the local Southern Baptist leaders who coordinated MissionsFEST in Philadelphia.

"We wanted the volunteers to experience the Baptist work in Philadelphia," said Tina Choi, church and communities director for the Greater Philadelphia Association, which includes 130 churches in a city of

five million people.

The only disadvantage for the volunteers, she added, is that they only see the challenge, not the progress. "Those of us who serve here long-term see how God is working to open the hearts of the people here to him and Southern Baptists," she said.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

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Christians face backlash

WASHINGTON (BP) — Christians living in Islamic lands are paying a price for the U.S.-led war on terrorism in Afghanistan as angry Muslims retaliate for what they see as an attack on their religion by the Christian West, according to a leading charity which monitors religious persecution, CNSNews.com reported Oct. 30. In recent weeks, Christians in Nigeria, Indonesia, Pakistan, Malaysia, and the Palestinian self-rule areas have come under attack from Muslims, in incidents often believed to be linked to the events in Afghanistan, the Barnabas Fund reported. "Christian minorities across the Islamic world are becoming the targets for revenge attacks from Islamic extremists because of America's war on terrorism, which is seen as an attack against Islam," the British-based charity said in a statement. "Many extremists are angry because they see America as a supporter and ally of the West, and they see the war on terrorism as a target for their anger." The charity added that it has received reports of attacks on Christians in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

Looking back

10 years ago

The oldest and largest Baptist state conventions face significant problems due to smaller budgets and strained income. "Everybody is experiencing a decline except Mississippi," says Barry Allen, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's business division.

20 years ago

John E. Barnes, pastor of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, announces his retirement after serving the church for 37 years. Just prior to his announcement, the 9000th person to join during the Barnes pastorate united with the downtown church.

50 years ago

Billy Graham, world-renowned evangelist, agrees to conduct a statewide evangelistic crusade in Jackson. Graham, a dynamic, 33-year-old minister, has led hundreds of thousands of persons to Christ through his evangelistic crusades over the nation.

DON'T KICK THE SKUNK

Not long ago, at one of our state meetings, an associational missions director was telling of an incident that took place with some folks in his county.

Some young men, in their early teens, were out in a rural area and came across a skunk. Startled by the animal and unsure as to what they ought to do, the boys in their fear started kicking the poor beast.

I suppose a sense of panic and maybe a touch of mob rule set in. As a result, the poor little skunk did not survive! The boys were victorious over this wild, jungle beast — but, surprise, surprise! Guess what happened to the boys on their way to their wilderness win? Well, let me just say, *it was not a pretty scent!*

As I listened to the story being told, I was reminded of the old cliché statement, "A bulldog can whoop a skunk, but it's not worth the effort!" As I understood the story, all this took place on a Sunday afternoon and when the boys got back to the house, there was a dilemma indeed!

When you have been out in the woods "kicking a skunk," you don't have to explain where you've been, what you've been doing, or who you've been hanging around — it just announces itself!

Have you ever gotten into a fight with a skunk? My guess is that most of us, at one time or another, have tangled with a skunk, though it may not have been black and white striped and we may not have realized what it was at the time. In fact, I've seen a lot of churches and church folks who have often "kicked a skunk." Think about three areas of "skunk-kicking":

• **Petty things** can turn into "skunk-kicking." Have you ever known a church to get in a fuss over which side the piano ought to be on in the sanctuary?

Have you ever known of folks to get all tangled up over the color of carpet, the location of a class, the type of chairs they have to sit in, the temperature (too hot or too cold) in a particular class, the time being changed for some service, or the week for revival was shifted? I have known of each of the above, and more! If you were to stop long enough to analyze it, you would realize this

is awfully, awfully small stuff!

Maybe required reading in our churches ought to be that popular book of a few years ago, *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff*.

The trouble is that sometimes we do get zeroed in on petty things and it ends up being as horrendous as "kicking a skunk." It can sure create a foul odor and everybody for miles and miles around knows about it.

• **Party things** can end up being like "kicking a skunk." Whether we want to admit it or not, and most of the time we don't, a lot of times in our churches we get into a posture where the main thing is, "somebody entertain me."

I'm not talking about mission trips, choir tours, and trips to conferences or seminars — no, it's way beyond that! It has to do with the church providing fun times in the best, souped-up, pretty-painted, whiz-bang bus you can get.

I remember a church one time, years ago, that had a group of folks who wanted to buy a fine, fancy new vehicle. The pastor and some of the other members did not believe that they could afford it or that they needed it.

Some of the folks began to threaten what they were going to do or not do unless they got their way, and I'm not sure which side was responsible, but somebody seemed to have "kicked the skunk," because somebody wanted to party.

Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

• **Personal things** can end up looking like "kicking a skunk." Our life in Christ is lived out here on this earth in relational experiences. Christ calls us not only to be his own people, but also to be people who relate to people.

I do not have any statistical support for this, but I'm convinced that most of the things that go wrong in our churches is the result of a breakdown in personal relationships — somebody did something that somebody didn't like, and somebody is mad at somebody and can't get over it.

While that is not unusual, the real problem is that Jesus tells us to get over it. In fact, the model prayer says, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Well, most of us are more gracious with "us" than we are with "them."

I'll never forget visiting with a fine old man whom I had gotten to know, and I was trying to get him to come to church. He was a member and a professed Christian. He seemed to have some genuineness about his faith, but he didn't come to church and he didn't intend to get started back.

I asked him why that was. He was very open and told me that

the church had done him wrong, or more specifically, one man had not done him right. He told me what the man said and did to him and the more he told, the more emotional and animated he became.

I listened with a question mark in the back of my mind, "Isn't the person he is talking about dead?" When he got through with his detailed commentary on how this man had treated him, I asked, "Is he still living?" "Oh no, he's been dead for several years!"

"So are you telling me that something a man, who has now been dead several years, said to you is keeping you from being in church and counting for the Lord?" He didn't blink an eye when he replied, "Yes, I just can't get over it!" I said, "Well, he got over it and it certainly is not bothering him. Why would you let it bother you?"

Somebody "kicked the skunk" and it is taking a long, long time to get the odor out of your clothes and off of your skin. Some people have personal issues and they refuse to let go of them.

Now, back to the boys who had been out on Sunday afternoon and "kicked the skunk." One of them was not going to church on Sunday night until his mother intervened and let him know that, yes he was!

Though he changed clothes, he was still not a welcome smell, but after a few weeks, hardly anybody even noticed. Maybe it's a good word for all of us — *Don't kick the skunk! Just get on with doing what the Lord would have you do.*

Jackson Church playing host to Maxwell show

Alta Woods Church, Jackson, will host The Last Fiddle, a religious musical, on the occasion of the Apostle Paul and starring John Maxwell, at 5:30 p.m. on November 4.

Maxwell, who has performed his one-man play, Oh, Mr. Faulkner, Do You Write, on international stages, is also the author of The Last Fiddle. For more information, contact the church at (601) 372-8651.

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(601) 736-1136

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

November 1, 2001

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Area Keyboard Festivals - 2002

AREA LOCATION

Thursday, January 24, - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

- Area 2 Calvary BC, Tupelo, 501 West Main (All Categories)
- Area 4 Fairview BC, Columbus, 127 Airline Road (All Categories)
- Area 5 FBC Clinton, 100 E. College Street (Category 1, 1A only)
- Area 7 FBC McComb, 1700 Delaware Avenue (All Categories)
- Area 8 FBC Hattiesburg, 510 West Pine Street (All Categories)
- Area 8 FBC Laurel, 605 Fifth Avenue (All Categories)

Friday, January 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

- Area 1 Hernando BC, Hernando, 11 E. Center Street (All Categories)
- Area 5 Crossgates BC, Brandon, 8 Crosswoods Road
(Categories II, IIA, III, IV only)
- Area 6 Poplar Springs Drive BC, 4032 Poplar Springs Dr., Meridian (All Categories)
- Area 9 FBC Biloxi, 1560 Popps Ferry Road (All Categories)

Saturday, January 26, 9:30-noon

- Area 3 Emmanuel BC, Grenada, 245 Meadow Brook Road (All Categories)
- Area 5 Alta Woods BC, Jackson, 168 Colonial Drive
(Categories II, IIA, III, IV only)

Start planning now to have the children and youth from your church and studio participate in the 2002 keyboard festivals.

For more information or registration form,
contact Wyndy South at 601-292-3272 or 1-800-748-1651.



Partnership Missions CELEBRATION

November 9-10, 2001

Friday, November 9

FBC, Jackson, 425 North State Street
Featuring:

- Celebration Banquet - 6:30 p.m.
- Partnership Displays by Participants
- Music/Testimonies
- Mission Impact - Mississippi - David Michel
- Partnership Updates - Fieldside Coordinators
- Church Planting Movement - David Jackson

David Michel

Saturday, November 10

Baptist Building, 515 Mississippi Street
Featuring:

- Continental Breakfast - 7:30 - 8:15 a.m.
- Devotional
- New Mission Opportunities - Panel
- Celebration Conferences by Partnership Groups

David Jackson

*The Partnership Missions Celebration is open to anyone
Interested in missions.*

Banquet cost: \$10 Reservations required by November 6
Call: 601-292-3398 by November 6

RESERVATION FORM

Partnership Missions Celebration, November 9-10, 2001

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ No. of Reservations _____

Please fill out form and mail to: Partnership Missions Department, MBCB
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530



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January 11-12
2002

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Church Music
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Jackson, 601-292-3267.

Annual Missions Celebration
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FBC Natchez

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at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 601-292-3319, or
E-mail: spruitt@mbcb.org.

THE SUIT PROJECT



What is it?

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Cost: \$130 per suit - Please designate on your check: Suit Project

NEW FEATURE

This year, as funds are available, we hope to send clothing gift certificates for the wives.

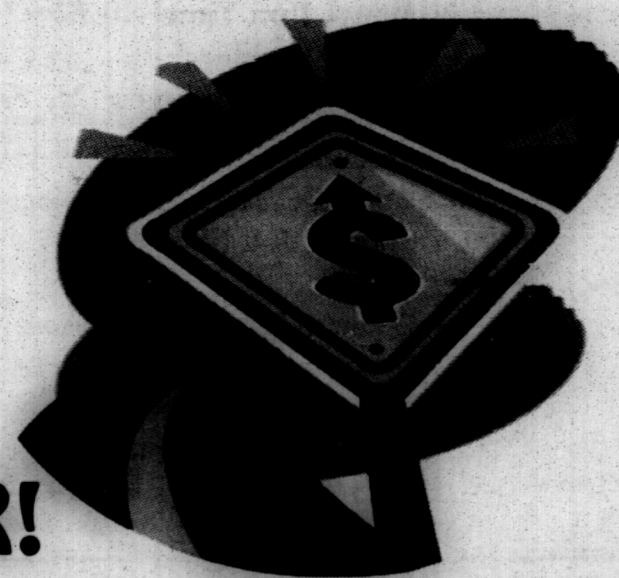
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For more information please call 1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson, 601-292-3334.

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- ◆ Evening worship

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Jerry W. Mixon - Stewardship Director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

REGIONAL SINGLES RALLIES

Friday, January 25, 2002

Central Hills, Kosciusko, 662-289-9730

Cost: \$10 with supper or \$5 without supper

- Supper reservations required by Monday, January 21
- Music by *Ninth Hour*, Madison
- Conferences:

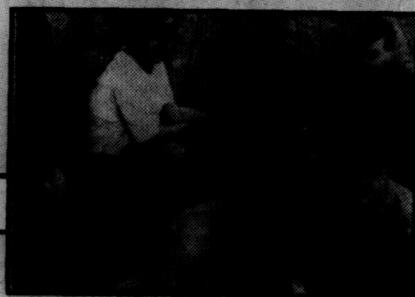
Bible Study - led by members of *Ninth Hour*

Fun Time - led by Jan Halford, Jackson

Leadership - led by Randy Impson, Starkville

- 6 p.m. - Supper
- 7 p.m. - Rally
- 10 p.m. - Adjourn

Ninth Hour



Saturday, January 26, 2002

Jeff Davis/Covington Family Center, Collins

601-765-4689

2-5 p.m. (Supper 5 p.m.)

Cost: \$10 with supper or \$5 without supper

- Supper reservations required by Monday, January 21
- Music by *Ninth Hour*, Madison
- Conferences:

Bible Study - led by members of *Ninth Hour*

Fun Time - led by Jan Halford, Jackson

Leadership - led by Randy Impson, Starkville

REGISTRATION

Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Mail to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

attn: Glenn Shows, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Church _____

Amount enclosed _____

Please mark which rally you will attend and how many

_____ Friday, Jan. 25 - Central Hills, Kosciusko

_____ Saturday, Jan. 26 - Jeff Davis/Covington Family Center, Collins

For more information, contact Glenn Shows in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, MBCB, at 1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson, 601-292-3373.



2002 Mississippi
Baptist All-State
Youth Choir
and Orchestra

auditions

November 2001 Choral and Orchestral Auditions

Saturday, 3rd	12-2 p.m.	North Greenwood BC, Greenwood
Saturday, 10th	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	William Carey College, Hattiesburg
Thursday, 15th	4-8 p.m.	FBC, Meridian
Saturday, 17th	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Aven Hall, Mississippi College, Clinton

(NOTE: ALL instrumentalists will be expected to audition vocally.)

Instrumental auditions will include:

- A prepared piece • Scales • Sight reading • Technique and tune
- For more info contact the Church Music Department at
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 (Jackson)

December 27-28 • Mississippi College, Clinton

At Wood College

Pre-
deadline
December 14

Thomas Young
Secretary

John A. ...

Jon ...

Chris Davis

Dennis Lee



Christian Performing
Arts Festival

April 10-12, 2002

Courtesy, Woods Baptist Church, Brandon

For more information, please contact the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

Special Guest:
Wesley Brainard

Pray this day for...

November 2-15, 2001

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

PREVAILING PRAYER -

"Prayer is my real business! Cobbling shoes is a sideline: it just helps me pay expenses."

William Carey

For: (1) Voter Awareness Day (CAC); (2) Pray for the integrity and godly example of the marriages of South Asia missionary personnel and of national believers. Pray for believers who seek Christian spouses, but face pressure from family to be unequally yoked.

A missionary couple working in a poor neighborhood in western Brazil, wrote: "We are meeting in the home of a believer, J. He was robbed when two robbers who knew he was a believer, took part of his roof to enter his house. Pray that he not be discouraged."

For: (1) Baptist Women's Day of Prayer (WMU); (2) Thank God for J., an Uruguayan pastor, at one time a convict. Recently through his jail ministry 12 prisoners accepted the Lord. Thank God that a man in the church is ready and willing to disciple them.

For: (1) Church Planter Mentor Training, Central Hills Retreat (SM); (2) Relations between the USA and a Last Frontier nation have improved in recent weeks. Pray that this positive turn of events will open doors for Christian workers to enter and work there.

Many women in Central and S. Asia live within walled compounds, behind veiled faces and under restrictive measures — all in the name of honor. Pray that God would remove the veils from their hearts to see and receive Jesus as their Redeemer and Provider.

A young Arab man of Yemen loves the West. He likes to be around foreigners. He devours foreign books and pictures. He doesn't see who is behind many of the Western ways that he admires. Pray that he will find the Author of these Christian values that he admires so much.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS; (2) Jeni Cook, director of the National VA Chaplain Center in Hampton Va. Pray for her and her husband, Ray, as she provides leadership for chaplaincy service in one of the 172 VA medical centers throughout the U.S.

The Turkana Team writes: "Some of the Turkana Christians of Kenya have caught the vision of reproducing churches and have started new churches in the 'bush.' We are also thankful for the first rain in seven years. Thank you for your consistent prayers for the Turkana people."

Pray for Bible distribution in China. Amity Press has supplied over 20 million Bibles to registered churches. The Bible League and Open Doors have sent millions more to unregistered churches. (2) Pray for Chief Executive Edmund Ho Hau-Wah of Macao, China.

Chile's capital city, Santiago, has over 5.5 million people, with very few New Testament churches. Pray for good attendance, information sharing, and vision casting at the Church-Planting Forum that will be held soon. Pray for God to call out young leaders to serve their new churches.

For: (1) Int'l Student Conf., Camp Garaywa (CLGM); (2) The Barrios Caracas, Venezuela, Team asks for prayer as they focus on young men in the barrios bombarded by drugs, gangs, violence, sex, alcohol, and gambling. Please pray for these young men and for other Christian men to help.

For: (1) GA Event, FBC, Natchez (WMU); (2) Pray for the church at Kplogodome, Benin, as they begin "storying" groups (chronological Bible story telling to present Scripture to the illiterate) in their villages and others. Pray that other churches in the area will begin storying as well.

For: (1) Partnership Missions Celebration, FBC, Jackson and Baptist Building (Partnership Missions); (2) Join a member of the Cordoba Team, Argentina, in asking God to use his friend, a professional basketball player, to start a Bible study to reach basketball players.

The Thuringen Team in Germany requests prayer for church-planting efforts in a major city in the state of Thuringen. Pray that the Lord will lead team members to many people who are ripe to receive the gospel message.

FOR THE SAKE OF SAFETY:
During this time of national crisis,
we will not have the MK Birthday
Calendar listing the names and
addresses of MKs.

2002 Discipleship Resources Showcase

6:30 - 9:15 p.m.

Monday, March 18 - Trinity Baptist Church, Southaven

Tuesday, March 19 - First Baptist Church, Clinton

Thursday, March 21 - Easthaven Baptist Church, Brookhaven

SHOWCASE

"New Christian Series" (Body Life)

"Prayer Life" (Watchman Prayer Ministry)

"Transformational Discipleship" (Ways of God)

"Family Ministries" (How to Minister to Families in Your Church)

"Spiritual Crisis" (Spiritual Warfare)

"Recreation Ministry" (Fit 4)

"Leadership" (Jesus on Leadership)

"Children's Ministry"

"Youth Ministry"

For more information, contact Glenn Shows in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, MBCB, at 1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson, 601-292-3373.

HOUSE TOPS

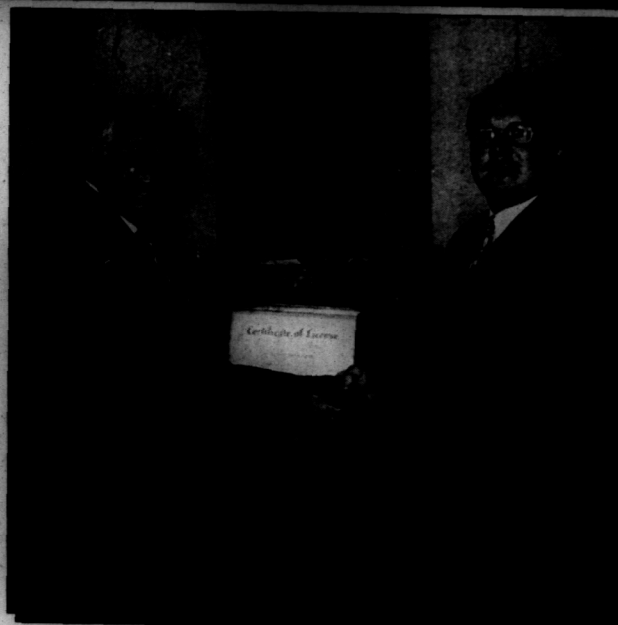
NAMES IN THE NEWS

Linwood Church, Union, Sept. 2. Pictured (from left) are ordained Harold Cannon and Pat and Harold Cannon and Alan Spears as deacons on Alan and Dana Spears.



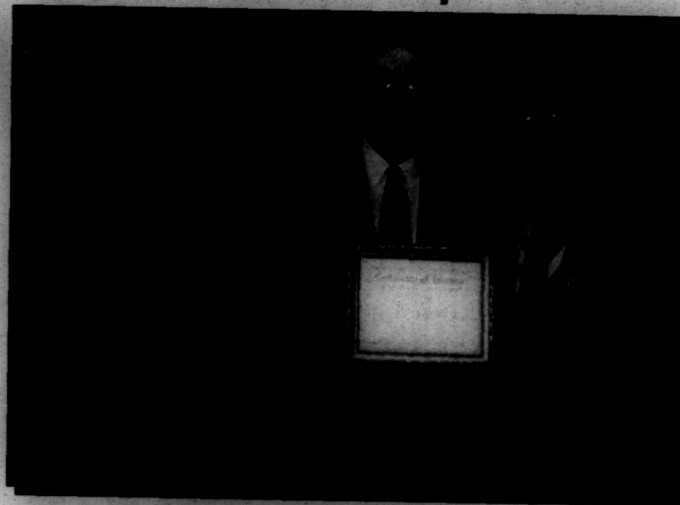
The Cannons and the Spears

De Soto Church, Clarke County, has licensed Dewayne Crane (right) to the ministry. He is available for pulpit supply, revivals, and other preaching engagements and can be reached through the church at (601) 776-6050. Jim Smith (left) is pastor.



Smith and Crane

North Columbia Church, Columbia, licensed Dewitt Davis to the ministry. He is available for pulpit supply, nursing home ministry, Bible studies, or other ministry-related needs. For additional information, contact Davis at (601) 736-6310. Pictured (from left, standing) are Ann Davis, Dewitt Davis, and Mike Grenn, pastor.



The Davises and Grenn

HOMEcomings

Lake Washington First, Glen Allan: homecoming revival; Nov. 9-11; Friday, worship, 7 p.m.; Bob Smith, speaker; Susanne McLendon, music; Saturday, fish fry, 5 p.m.; special music, 6:30 p.m.; worship, 7 p.m.; Bob Smith, speaker; Sunday, 10 a.m., Owen Riddick, speaker; Soul Harvest Quartet, special music; 11 a.m. service, Bob Smith, speaker; lunch; and 1 p.m. service; Jimmy McLendon, pastor.

New Hope, Mt. Olive (Simpson): Nov. 4; 11 a.m. service, followed by dinner on the grounds; Matt Weston, music.

Fairview, Indianola: 128th year; Nov. 18; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; lunch served in Redding Hall.

Highland, Crystal Springs: Nov. 11; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; cov-

ered dish in fellowship hall, 11:30 a.m.; Vann Windom, Roxie, guest speaker; David Patterson, pastor.

First Church of Edinburg: Nov. 4; 10:45 a.m.; lunch will be served; Randall Creel, guest speaker; Billy Henry, pastor.

Leesburg, Morton: Nov. 4; services, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Ricky Kennedy, speaker; Jeff Jones, music.

REVIVAL DATES

New Life, McLain: Nov. 17-19; Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday, 7 p.m.; Harold Danley, evangelist; Jerry Rawls, pastor.

Highland, Crystal Springs: Nov. 25-30; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Tony Monk, Vicksburg, evangelist; Ronny Whittington, Crystal Springs, music; David Patterson, pastor.

Hebron, Grenada: Nov. 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; William Brown, evangelist; Joey Ingram, music; Harold Simmons, pastor.

Adaton, Starkville: Nov. 4-7; Sunday, 9:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Hamilton, Pontotoc, evangelist; Tommy Quinn, Natchez, music; Scott Cappleman, pastor.

First, Moss Point: Nov. 4-7; Sunday, 10:55 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 6:30 p.m.; Bill Bozeman, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Rick Smith, Madison, Ga., music.

Clarification

In the letters to the editor on page seven of the issue of October 4, the last paragraph should read: "I am a Christian in good standing with my local church and I am not a member of any other church." and in the paragraph below it should read: "I am a Christian in good standing with my local church and I am not a member of any other church." which can come across as it did for thousands on September 11."

North Greenwood Baptist Church is sponsoring

A Holiday Evening with Sandi Patty
in concert



December 1
7 p.m.
Leflore County
Civic Center in
Greenwood

This will be the first stop of her Christmas tour.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from North Greenwood Baptist Church by calling (662) 453-2801.

Dauphin Island Baptist Church

invites you to come visit our Dauphin Island Baptist Resort Ministry Center

Open House

November 3, 2001 ♦ 1-4 p.m.

Come tour our center for retreats, staff development, homeschool trips, DiscipleNow weekends, mission trips.

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May through July are for mission trips only.

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For references and more information, call Mike Brooks at 601-353-2400 or 1-800-442-0290.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



West Heights Church, Pontotoc, held groundbreaking services for its new family life center and multi-purpose building on Sunday, Sept. 23. The building will house recreation space, education space, and a large fellowship hall. Members of the building and planning committee pictured (from left) are Patsy Washington; Brenda McCreight; Brett Crawford; David Hamilton, pastor; Mac Huddleston; and Rickey Richardson. Not pictured is Chuck Howell.

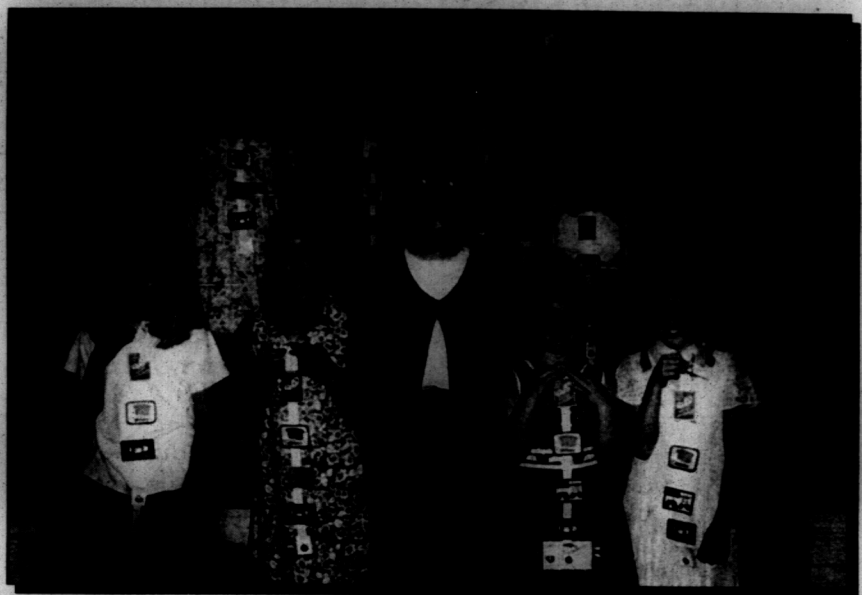
New Life Church, McLain, will host Michael Combs in concert at 7 p.m. on Nov. 16. The singing will be followed by a three-day revival, Nov. 17-19. For additional information, call (601) 945-2000 or (601) 753-2507.

Coila Church, Carroll Association, will show the film, *The Burning Hell*, on Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. After the film, there will be a time of fellowship and activities. For more information, call (662) 237-6870. Billy Blakely is pastor.

Dumas Church, Tippah County, will host a Hallelujah Harvest Festival, Nov. 10, beginning at 3 p.m. All proceeds will go to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. For additional information, call (662) 837-9687.

Shiloh Church, Sontag, recently held a GA recognition service. Pictured (front row, from right) are Nicole Ballard; Kayla Smith; Sue Honea, leader and GA director; Chelsea Douglas; Kelly Dunaway; (sec-

ond row) Michelle Evans, leader; Carol Barham, leader; (third row) Kaci Fowler; Cheyandon Evans; Katie Smith; Lindsey Carter; and Quin Sylvester.



GAs of Shiloh Church, Sontag

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Blue Mountain College (BMC) will hold a reception honoring Harold Fisher and his wife Martha from 2-5 p.m. on Nov. 2 at the Paschal Student Center on campus. The Fisher Years at BMC will be commemorated during the Founder's Day program at 10 a.m. on Nov. 2 in the Modena Lowrey Berry auditorium.

Mississippi College (MC) Preview Day will be held Nov. 3. The schedule for the day will begin at 8 a.m. with registration; 8:30 a.m., welcome session; 9 a.m., faculty forum for students and parents; 10 a.m., students will attend a class of their choice while parents may attend a special information session pertaining to admissions process, scholarships, financial aid, and housing; 11 a.m., tours/department fair; lunch and tailgate party at noon; and at 1:30 p.m., MC will play Texas Lutheran. Call (800) 738-1236 or go to www.mc.edu to make your reservation.

The Mississippi College Library will hold a Used Book Sale, Nov. 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the alley between Aven Fine Arts Building and the

Library. In case of rain, the date will be moved to Nov. 16.

The Mississippi College Glen Eaves Lectureship in European and English History will be presented on Nov. 5, at 7 p.m. in Grand Hall West of the B. C. Rogers Student Center. The guest speaker is Myron C. Noonkester, Department of History and Science and Phi

Carey: Missionary Encounters in Britain and Bengal Revisited." Noonkester received his BA at Duke University and his MA and Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in British History. He is professor of history at William Carey College. The lectureship is sponsored by the Department of History and Science and Phi



The Fishers

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CHURCHES AVAILABLE

CHURCH AVERAGING 100 in Sunday School seeks full-time associate pastor/minister of music and youth. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.

FBC MOSS POINT is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to: FBC Pastor Search Committee, 4807 Main Street, Moss Point, MS 39563; or call (228) 475-8142.

MT. PISGAH BAPTIST CHURCH, Enid, Miss., is seeking a part-time youth/children director. Position includes Bible study and recreation. Send resume to Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, 605 Enid Teasdale Road, Enid, MS 38927 or email: csturgis38927@yahoo.com or fax (662) 623-7910.

MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH in Meridian is seeking a full-time secretary. Must have computer skills. Send resume to 4579 Old 8th Street Rd. N., Meridian, MS 39307 or call (601) 483-5497.

SEEKING FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH. Contact: Woodland Baptist Church, 3033 Ridge Road, Columbus, MS 39705. Telephone (662) 327-6689.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RICHLAND is seeking pianist. Call (601) 939-1745.

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PARADISE LANES: Mississippi's smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-ins, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS, (601) 372-7700.

ORGAN FOR SALE: 1993 Allen MDS-65, excellent condition, 3-manuals, 54 stops, card reader, 14 speaker cabinets and dolly. For more information call the worship office at (205) 991-5282 or email pkelly@valleydale.org.

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BRANSON, MO CONDO - sleeps six. Stay 3 nights, 4th free or 5 nights, 6th and 7th free. Free coffee, tea, and cocoa. \$100.00 daily. Register for free return trip. Accommodates large groups. Call early for reservations (662) 746-4632.

SUPER GRACE BEACH HOUSE for rent. Excellent for staff retreats or family vacations. Located in a private subdivision at the beach at Fort Morgan, Ala. Visit our website at <http://super-grace.jumptravel.com> or call Allan or Linda Rankin at (888) 784-4025.

KINGWOOD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH in Kingwood, Tex., is accepting resumes for the following full-time positions: minister of worship/outreach for contemporary worship services with praise team and to enhance outreach programs; and minister of childhood education for birth - grade 6. Send resumes to Kingwood First Baptist Church, 2303 Tree Lane, Kingwood, TX 77339, ATTN: Mike David or email resume to mdavid@kfbctx.org.

FULL-TIME STUDENT MINISTER position open at New Chapel Hill Baptist Church in West Monroe, La. Please fax resume to (318) 396-1004 or email NCH@LWOL.com.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Affirming God's worthiness

Numbers 13:1-2; 14:6-38

By Wayne Marshall

He came into the auditorium about fifteen minutes before worship. It was easy to see that he was not our kind of folk. His accent was different. His clothes were old. His appearance was a little wrinkled. Yet he was there by divine appointment.

On this particular Sunday the church would be tested. Does this man deserve the right to have the Gospel and be changed forever? Why did I have that opportunity? Would I share Christ with someone who was not like me? Our lesson today gives us three admonitions as believers and as part of the church.

Shoulder the responsibility (vv. 14-16). Notice the preacher of the hour. It was Peter. This

man denied Christ at his crucifixion.

This man confidently announced that he would never deny Christ (foot-in-mouth disease). This man failed when he walked on the water (he was out of the boat). What was the reason for Peter to be used here? GOD USES AVAILABLE PEOPLE!

Peter had found the reason for life (finally). His life would never be the same again.

Peter spoke with courage. Verse 14 states that he "stood up in the midst of them." To be a witness you must be willing to be singled out as a believer.

Peter spoke with confidence. He even asked that they would "hearken" (hear) what he had to say. In a Jewish festival in the middle of the Jewish city filled

with Jewish tradition and ceremony, Peter cried out of a new and different way. Peter even went a step further. His courage and confidence was supported by his clarity.

Have you had an experience nailing down the importance of a personal evangelistic message? It is our responsibility and privilege as believers.

Share the Redemption (vv. 22-36). To redeem something really means to "buy it back." As Peter began to share about the life and ministry of Jesus he laid foundation for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by allowing the Jewish community (and the world) to see that Jesus purchased our redemption by the cross and resurrection.

Note the following ideas from Scripture. He is the Person of salvation. Verse 22 says he was "approved of God among you." They knew his purpose. Secondly, he was the pattern of salvation. Verse 23 states he was

delivered, crucified, and slain. These pictures reflected to the Jewish community the sacrifice they were making through their dove, sheep, or oxen during the Passover festival.

Peter then clenches the presentation by speaking of the resurrection. Christ was seen by many alive (v. 32). He further states the position of Christ as Lord in verse 36. The listeners were definitely being confronted with the Gospel. I must ask this question: Have you told anyone of Christ's redemptive plan lately?

Solicit a response (vv. 37-41). "Lifestyle" evangelism has been misrepresented by many as only showing by our lives that Jesus has made the difference in our being. Peter's presentation includes a plea for a response to what Jesus has done.

The Holy Spirit spoke to hearts in conviction as the Gospel was clearly shared. Because of this Peter was able to proclaim two admonitions to the people. Verse 38 mentions

both. First, it says "repent." It means to turn away from and go in the opposite direction.

Repentance includes sorrow for sin and separation from a sin-filled, past lifestyle. One might say that "repentance is inward response to the Good News." The result of 3000 salvation decisions shows the reliability of the Gospel presentation.

"Baptism" is the other admonition from Peter's invitation. He clearly states its necessity, not as a source of faith and salvation but as an outward sign of salvation.

Where repentance is an inward sign of salvation, baptism is the outward sign of that inward change. Do not argue! Both are important to the testimony of faith.

By the way, catch the results of a faithful, clear message of salvation as the Holy Spirit takes that message and convicts the heart of the lost sinner (v. 41).

Marshall is pastor of Longview Heights Church in Olive Branch.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Trust God

2 Thessalonians 1:1-11

By Dell Scoper

Our world is at war. During these times of terrorism and fear, Christians can prove their faith by continuing to trust in the sovereignty of God in human affairs and in his certain return as our victorious Lord.

This lesson challenges us to trust God, regardless of trying circumstances, with the confidence that he is just and that he will exercise appropriate judgement in his own time.

Trust God and grow (vv. 1-4). The salutation is very similar to the one in 1 Thessalonians, with the variation that the source of grace and peace is specifically mentioned as coming from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. In 1:3-4, Paul gave a

strong affirmation to this church, expressing gratitude for two things, both of which he had affirmed in his previous epistle — their growing faith and increasing love.

Paul took justifiable pride in their spiritual progress because of their perseverance and faith in all the persecution they were enduring. It is noteworthy that Paul did not congratulate his readers for possessing these qualities.

Instead, he gave thanks to God, adding that because of his pride in their faith, love, and perseverance, he had taken the liberty of bragging about them to the other churches.

Trust God to be just (vv. 5-10). Paul addressed three confusing issues: divine retaliation

Scoper

the fact that such afflictions can be overcome by faith, love, and endurance.

Vindication of the persecuted is one aspect of the "rightness" of God's judgement, the other being the punishment that will be meted out to the persecutors who were causing their affliction.

Eternal punishment. Paul's phrase, "those who do not know God," does not imply passive ignorance. It rather refers to those who have pushed the knowledge of God aside and refused his love.

Eternal punishment, literally "to pay a just penalty in keeping with the sin," is not meted

out because of ignorance. It is the result of disobedience, and its duration is unlimited. Paul gave us the best description of hell in v. 9 — the worst possible punishment — separation from God's presence and glory, the nature of which is not annihilation, but banishment.

C. S. Lewis stated aptly that the individual who had chosen to be separated from Christ in this life is simply given the freedom to continue in that choice. Heaven or hell begins in this life. In death our choices are sealed.

The glorification of Christ. What joy will be portrayed on the day of the Lord "because you believed our testimony to you!" Jesus will be glorified in his saints and admired (marveled at) among all those who believe.

Trust God to glorify Christ (vv. 11-12). It was the custom of Paul to open his epistles with a greeting, a thanksgiving, and a prayer. His radiant thanksgiving reached its climax in vv. 5-10.

Paul then expressed in

prayer (vv. 11-12) God's ultimate purpose for the Thessalonians, that he would count them as worthy of his call. "Every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith," (v. 11) should be understood as the resolve and work of the believers.

Paul's prayer ended with what is called the "reciprocal glory" we have in Christ and he in us. This was God's purpose for the Thessalonians, that the name (that by which one is known) of the Lord Jesus will be glorified in their lives.

In like manner, we can trust God today, confident that he will count the totality of our faith worthy, not because we earned God's approval, but because we responded to his calling.

If our lives glorify him today, then we shall eventually be glorified in him on that glorious day of his appearing. What a tremendous privilege and responsibility!

Scoper is a member of First Church, Laurel.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail.

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All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 252-3333. E-mail: news@baptistrecord.com

Author pens 'Jerks of the Bible' for teens

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Jerks are everywhere. They cut us off on the interstate, take the parking space that was rightfully ours, talk too loudly during a movie, hurt our feelings, and make fun of us.

They're at work and at home and in our classes, our clubs, and our address books — and they're in the Bible, author Margaret Brouillette notes.

In her book, "Famous Jerks of the Bible," recently published by Broadman & Holman Publishers, Brouillette introduces a familiar cast of characters, which includes Judas, Samson, Saul (father of Jonathan), and Jonah.

The book, penned as an interactive Bible study designed for teens, takes a sharp turn

away from the familiar approach to these classic tales to get its message across.

"It's a message of wisdom and choices," Brouillette said. "Biblical righteousness doesn't just happen. The Bible tells us to fear God and do good."

"I think there's a window between 12 and 18 [years of age] where we make many choices, so that's why it was important for me to focus on teens."

For Brouillette, the goal of Famous Jerks of the Bible wasn't to retell the stories of these characters, but to present them in such a way that teens could recognize their own character flaws and, in the process, learn how to be people of God.

"A lot of the character flaws have to do with choices," Brouillette said. "There are things we can avoid, but I also think that there is a self-control issue... an important issue for teens."

In writing the book, Brouillette said she also studied the qualifications and character traits needed to be a good church leader.

"I think that the character traits I looked at in Jerks are the

opposite [of what is needed]," she observed. "These are people who broke all the rules."

In her book, Brouillette allows the rule-breakers to tell their own stories. Each chapter takes on a new character and a new character flaw, whether it's Nebuchadnezzar's conceit, Pharaoh's passion for power, or Saul's disobedience. After each character's first-person account, Brouillette follows with a short evaluation and Bible study.

The decision to approach the book this way wasn't an accident, she said.

"I thought it was very important for me to try to understand what made that person tick," the author said of the Bible characters discussed in her book.

"I really had to read and re-read their stories, because otherwise it's very easy to make judgments from outside and not understand what the real problem is," she said.

Understanding the real problems and issues that teens face was an important part of why Brouillette wrote Famous Jerks of the Bible.

"I think these stories have been told and retold in a kind of classical way... but these character flaws go on today," Brouillette said. "I tried very hard to be accurate, but retell the stories in a language we understand today."

"I don't think teens are very interested in repeating the same pat answers. Life is gritty, and God can meet us in the grit. He's where the rubber hits the road."

Brouillette hopes her book will help lead teens down the right road — God's road — by helping them learn to dig into the Bible and its stories to find important life lessons.

More than that, she wants them to learn what's important to God.

"Character issues matter to God," Brouillette said. "Traditions and human judgments don't."

Maybe, she said, the book will help create a world with a few less jerks.

Broadman & Holman is the trade publishing division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, based in Nashville.

Bibliocipher

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FSI YMJ PNSL XMFQQ
FSXBJW FSI XFD ZSYT
YMJR, AJWNQD N XFD
ZSYT DTZ, NSFZRZHM FX
DJ MFAJ ITSJ NY ZSYT TSJ
TK YMJ QJFX Y TK YMJXJ
RD GWJYMWJS DJ MFAJ
ITSJ NY ZSYT RJ.

RFYYMJB YBJSYD-KNAJ:

KTWYD

Clue: D = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Eleven: Twenty-Four.

Documentary depicts churches' civil rights role

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The American civil rights movement might have been played out on the buses, streets, and lunch counters of the South — but it was in the African American churches where participants found the spiritual strength for their task.

That simple premise, often acknowledged but rarely explored in depth, is the basis for a new historical documentary produced by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board (NAMB) FamilyNet subsidiary for broadcast on affiliate stations of the ABC television network.

We Shall Not Be Moved follows the movement through three pivotal cities in Alabama — Montgomery, Birmingham, and Selma — from the perspective of churches on the front lines of the struggle.

Those interviewed for the project include both lesser-known participants and national leaders, including Fred Shuttlesworth, Andrew Young, Benjamin Hooks, and John Lewis.

"Here's a huge historical event, but the tremendous role of the church rarely gets reported," said Bernie Hargis, producer and director of the documentary.

"Everybody that we interviewed is saying the church is the movement. If it hadn't been for the church there would be no movement," he said.

The one-hour documentary, produced by FamilyNet in conjunction with the Interfaith Broadcast Commission, is being distributed this month to ABC affiliates for broadcast at their discretion through mid-December.

Because of the depth of content, a two-hour version featuring materials from other key cities in the civil rights movement is being prepared for prime-time airing on the Hallmark Channel early next year.

Hargis said the documentary actually grew out of a project examining the country's historic churches, but producers quickly realized the churches associ-

ated with the civil rights movement warranted a focus of their own.

The story begins in Montgomery, with the call of Martin Luther King Jr. as pastor of the historic Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. A Boston University graduate considered by many to be worthy of a more

prestigious pulpit, King saw the pastorate as an opportunity to grow and work toward completion of his Ph.D.

The story of a young woman named Rosa Parks to move to the back of a bus kicked off the firestorm that brought dramatic changes in both his life and the nation, the documentary recounts.

King was chosen as leader of an organization of pastors and community activists known as the Montgomery Improvement Association, and the boycott they led, carried out by thousands of people in the pews, became what one leader called "one of the most powerful single protests that the world has ever seen."

"The civil rights movement, as has been said, is no more than a series of prayer meetings," Michael Thurmond, the current pastor of Dexter Avenue, says in the documentary.

"At least in Montgomery, it was no more than a series of prayer meetings and preaching and sermons which inspired people to protest," he said.

In Birmingham, it was the courageous Fred Shuttlesworth, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, who led weekly meetings in churches throughout the city to prepare the community for to take its stance.

It was also in Birmingham that some of the most violent backlash occurred, from the firehoses and nightsticks turned on nonviolent protestors by police to the bombing of Shuttlesworth's own home.

Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham had become a center for the movement because it had one of the city's largest sanctuaries.

On Sept. 15, 1963, four girls left Sunday School early to prepare for their part in a youth day service at the church, according to those who were there. A horrific bomb made martyrs of them at 10:22 a.m.

Alabama authorities have attempted over the last several years to bring the bombers to justice, despite the time lapse.

For information on local broadcast dates and times, contact your local ABC television affiliate.

We Shall
Not Be
Moved